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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 12 March 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Serbia on 11 March 1998 on the appointment of its negotiators to the talks with the representatives of the Albanian national minority of Kosovo and Metohija.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly under item 113 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/53/50.

Annex

Statement issued by the Government of the Republic of Serbia on 11 March 1998

The Serbian Government, in keeping with its decision of 10 March 1998, has appointed its representatives to the talks with the leaders of ethnic Albanian parties and associations, public figures from (Serbia's southern province of) Kosovo-Metohija and all persons considered as representatives of the Albanian national minority, in order to give an impetus to political processes and to resolving specific issues vital to the inhabitants of the province.

The Serbian Government will be represented by Deputy Prime Minister Prof. Ratko Markovic and ministers Ratomir Vico, Andrea Milosavljevic and Ivan Sedlak.

The Government reiterates it readiness to use dialogue and political means to resolve all issues regarding the exercise of human and civil rights of all citizens in Kosovo-Metohija, as well as all issues regarding faster economic and cultural development in line with Serbia's Constitution, European and international standards, the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Charter of Paris, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles contained in the Council of Europe Framework Convention on minority protection.

The Serbian Government urges all parliamentary parties to appoint one representative each for participation in the talks in order to ensure a unified approach of the Serbian Parliament to resolving the Kosovo-Metohija issues.

Serbian Government representatives and representatives of the Albanian national minority will initiate open and public talks in government offices in Pristina on Thursday, 12 March 1998.

The Serbian Government considers this statement as a public invitation to the talks in Pristina on Thursday.